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Dated: February 4, 2005

Signature:


(Nancy DeRiggi)

Atty. Docket No. 325772009100



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Kenji MASAKI

Serial No.: 09/287,530

Filing Date: April 7, 1999

For: DIGITAL IMAGE PROCESSING
APPARATUS

Examiner: Barry. Choobin

Group Art Unit: 2625

Confirmation No. 6413

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR. 1.97 & 1.98**

MS Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant submits for consideration in the above-identified application the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08a/b. Copies of the documents are also submitted herewith. The Examiner is requested to make these documents of record.

The documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08a/b were cited in a Japanese Office Action mailed on November 30, 2004 (copy attached) directed to a counterpart foreign application. A certification under 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1) follows:

I hereby certify that each item of information was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted after receipt of a first Office Action on the merits but before mailing of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance. A Certification under 37 CFR 1.97(e) is provided above; accordingly, no fee is believed to be due.

Applicant would appreciate the Examiner initialing and returning the Form PTO/SB/08a/b, indicating that the information has been considered and made of record herein.

The information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a complete search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the above information constitutes prior art to the subject invention.

In the event that the transmittal form is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief (such as payment of a fee under 37 CFR 1.17 (p)) is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing 325772009100.

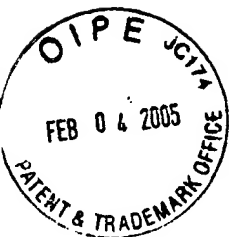
Dated: February 4, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	09/287,530
				Filing Date	April 7, 1999
				First Named Inventor	Kenji MASAKI
				Art Unit	2625
				Examiner Name	B. Choobin
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	325772009100

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
	1.	JP-8-321941	12-03-1996		abstract	

*EXAMINER: Initial if information considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²

*EXAMINER: Initial if information considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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